

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-10

SR-02 ORM-01 ITF-05 VO-03 SCA-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 EB-07

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O R 081739Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0969

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 07029

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, VS, VN

SUBJECT: UK AND PRG RECOGNITION

REF: (A) LONDON 6701 (B) LONDON 6848 (NOTAL)

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1. FCO SOUTHEAST ASIA DEPARTMENT HEAD SQUIRE REPORTS THAT HIS MAY 7 CONVERSATION WITH "PRG REPRESENTATIVE" MADAME PHAN THI MINH (REF. B) WAS IN VERY LOW KEY. SHE DID NOT WISH TO DISCUSS RECOGNITION QUESTIONS AND STUCK MOSTLY TO DESCRIBING PRG POLICY AS ALREADY ANNOUNCED FROM SAIGON. SHE DID SAY TO SQUIRE (AND TO PRESS) THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR UK TO ADMIT ANY REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM, THAT "OUR GOVERNMENT INVITES THEM (THE REFUGEES) TO RETURN HOME AND HELP IN THE RECONSTRUCTION". SHE DID NOT INDICATE THAT UK ACCEPTANCE OF REFUGEES WOULD CAUSE ANY HITCH IN PRG/UK RELATIONS.

2. SQUIRE ALSO REPORTED THAT DRV CHARGE LAI VAN NGOC CALLED ON HIM MAY 8 WITH A NOTE FROM PRG MISSION IN PARIS REQUESTING THAT HMG TURN OVER ALL PRG ASSETS IN UK TO DRV EMBASSY. SQUIRE RESPONDED TO NGOC THAT HMG COULD NOT LEGALLY TURN OVER ASSETS AT THIS TIME BECAUSE IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT NEW GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN FORMED IN SAIGON. SQUIRE DID SAY THAT UK HOPES TO BE ABLE TO RETURN ITS AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY STAFF TO SAIGON IN NEAR FUTURE. NGOC DID NOT RESPOND TO THE LATTER AND HE UNDERSTOOD HMG POSITION ON TURN OVER OF PRG ASSETS.

3. GOLDSMITH, DEPUTY TO SQUIRE, REPORTED IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION THAT DEPENDING ON WILSON/CALLAGHAN CONVERSATION IN U.S. UK NOW PLANS TO GO AHEAD WITH RECOGNITION PRG MAY 13 OR 14. FCO THINKING IS THAT CALLAGHAN WILL SEND A MESSAGE TO PRG FOREIGN MINISTER SAYING THAT IMPROVED SECURITY SITUATION IN SAIGON MEANS THAT UK WOULD LIKE TO SEND ITS DIPLOMATIC MISSION PERSONNEL BACK TO SOUTH VIETNAM, THAT UK WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF SOUTH VIETNAM AUTHORITIES MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR BRITISH DIPLOMATS TO PICK UP NEW VISAS ON RETURN TO SAIGON. IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT CALLAGHAN LETTER WOULD NOT BE COUCHED AS RECOGNITION OF NEW STATE BUT RATHER AS A RE-OPENING OF DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN COUNTRY WHERE RELATIONS HAVE EXISTED. IN PARTIAL ANSWER TO NGOC DEMARCHE REPORTED ABOVE, CALLAGHAN LETTER WOULD NOTE THAT HMG IS ALSO LOOKING AFTER PRG PROPERTY IN LONDON.

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4. GOLDSMITH SAID THAT IN ABSENCE OF U.S. COMMENT ON UK PROPOSAL TO RECOGNIZE PRG, FCO IS TAKING IT THAT U.S. DOES NOT HAVE STRONG FEELINGS ON THE MATTER.

5. GOLDSMITH ALSO REPORTED THAT PRG HAS SENT ROUND ROBIN LETTER TO MANY COUNTRIES ASKING EACH TO TAKE OVER ASSETS OF PRG. UK FINDS IT INTERESTING THAT ONLY KNOWN EXCEPTION TO ASKING HOST COUNTRIES TO TAKE CUSTODY WAS

IN NEW ZEALAND WHERE PRG HAS ASKED YUGOSLAVIA TO REPRESENT ITS INTERESTS. FCO IS INTRIGUED BY THIS BECAUSE BOTH PRG AND USSR ARE REPRESENTED IN WELLINGTON.

6. ON REFUGEE FRONT FIRST MINISTERIAL LEVEL STATEMENT APPEARED TODAY WHEN HOME SECRETARY ROY JENKINS ANNOUNCED IN A COMMONS WRITTEN REPLY THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO ADMIT "A NUMBER OF REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM WHO HAVE SOME PREVIOUS CONNECTION OR TIE WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM."

RICHARDSON

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